

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T STATE 166343

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 20067 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USNATO,
LONDON, BONN, VIENNA, GENEVA, MOSCOW, USNMR SHAPE, AND USCINCEUR
DATED JUNE 23, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T PARIS 20067

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

GENEVA FOR SALTDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, FR
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SUBJ: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
IN EUROPE

REF: STATE 158598 DTG 212341Z JUN 78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF CONVEYED REFTTEL POINTS TO
QUAI OFFICER WHO FOUND US POSITION DISAPPOINTING. RE

PARA 11 STATEMENT "THAT NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSED BY FRANCE MIGHT BE A USEFUL SEQUEL TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT," QUAI OFFICIAL ASKED IF US MEANT THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FOLLOW CONCLUSION OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO REFTEL INSTRUCTION, EMBOFF ON JUNE 22 CALLED ON GERALD DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE, ACTING CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY (DE LA FERRIERE IS IN WASHINGTON WITH PAGNIEZ FOR BILATERALS). EMBOFF WENT THROUGH PARAS 3-11 REFTEL, NOTING THAT WE WELCOME FRENCH INTEREST BUT BELIEVE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT RELATES DIRECTLY TO INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE. THUS THE ALLIANCE IS PROPER FORUM FOR CONSIDERING FRENCH PROPOSAL AS INDICATED BY GOF AT NATO WASHINGTON SUMMIT.

3. DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE CONFIRMED THAT GOF INTENDS TO CONSULT ON ITS PROPOSAL IN BRUSSELS. EMBOFF CONTINUED THAT WE WISH TO INSURE THAT FRENCH PROPOSAL DOES NOT UNDERCUT PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT IN MBFR. DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE SAID THAT FRENCH VIEW DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT TWO NEGOTIATIONS COULD MOVE IN PARALLEL IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. WITH REGARD TO SOVIET RESPONSE TO WESTERN MBFR INITIATIVE, DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE SAID SECRET

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THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD HAD RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM OWEN, GENSCHER, AND SECRETARY VANCE THAT THIS WAS NOT A "BREAKTHROUGH." EMBOFF RESPONDED (PER PARA 9 REFTEL) THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL BUT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO DISTRACT ATTENTION AND IMPETUS FROM VIENNA BY OPENING ANOTHER NEGOTIATION.

4. EMBOFF POINTED OUT NATO IS EXAMINING A NEW PACKAGE OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES FOR MBFR. FRENCH CONFERENCE MIGHT DILUTE THIS EFFORT. NATO MAY WISH TO LOOK AT FRENCH PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO CSCE/CBMS AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE A

USEFUL SEQUEL TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT. EMBOFF THEN HANDED OVER NON-PAPER WITH TEXT OF PARAS 3-11 OF REFTEL.

5. DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, FOUND US POSITION "DISAPPOINTING" AND "COOL." HE REITERATED THAT GOF WAS ALREADY PREPARED TO CONSULT IN NATO ON ITS PROPOSAL AND THAT MBFR AND THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE COULD PROCEED "IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS." HE ASKED IF US POSITION HAD BEEN ALSO GIVEN TO PAGNIEZ IN WASHING-

TON BILATERALS.

6. RETURNING TO FINAL SENTENCE RE "SEQUEL TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT," DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE ASKED IF US ACTUALLY MEANT THAT CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY FRANCE SHOULD FOLLOW AN MBFR AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT MBFR HAS BEEN GOING ON FIVE YEARS ALREADY. THIS COULD MEAN AN INDEFINITE DELAY. IN CONCLUSION, DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT THE US POSITION TO HIS SUPERIORS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: RESPONSE AS TO WHETHER US, BY "SEQUEL," MEANS THAT NATO SHOULD CONSIDER POSSIBILITY THAT FRENCH PROPOSED CONFERENCE WOULD FOLLOW AFTER
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CONCLUSION OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT, SO THAT WE MAY RESPOND TO QUAI.
HARTMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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